



THE SWEDISH CLUB NEWS

The Swedish Club of Houston

Preserving Swedish Heritage on the Texas Gulf Coast since 1986

Club Updates

- Remember to sign up for this year's Smörgåsbord to be held Friday, November 6th starting at 6:30 pm at the Brae-Burn Country Club. For more information, go to page 4 or visit the Swedish Club's website or go to <http://swedishclub.org/calendar/current-calendar/280>
- SACC Houston is hosting a **Traditional Thursday Pea Soup and Pancakes** on October 29th at 5:00 pm at Chef Soren's Kitchen, located at 2314 Dunlavy St, Houston. Admission is \$10. <http://sacctx.chambermaster.com/events/details/sacc-houston-s-traditional-thursday-peas-soup-and-pancakes-1060>
- The Snorre Chapter to the Norwegian Society of Texas is hosting it's annual Lutefisk party on Saturday, Nov 7th at Rioja Restaurant, 1920 Westheimer. Cost is \$95 and seats can be reserved at www.norwegiansocietyoftexas.org/events/snorre-lutefisk-party/

In the News

- This year's Nobel Prize in chemistry will be shared between Swedish cancer researcher Tomas Lindahl, Aziz Sancar, and Paul Modrich. Mr. Lindahl will be the 29th Swedish Nobel winner and only the fourth in Chemistry.
- After suffering from cancer for more than 18 months, prolific Swedish Crime writer Henning Mankell passed away this month at his home in Gothenburg.
- Sweden's Migration Agency has reported that over 86,000 people had already applied for asylum this year surpassing the previous record set in 1992 when 84,016 people sought asylum following fighting in the Balkans.

Swedish Chemistry Pioneer - Svante Arrhenius, 1859-1927

Svante Arrhenius, whose active career ranged from the late 1800s to early 1900s, is often referred to as one of the fathers of physical chemistry. Students and practitioners of engineering and chemistry are familiar with the famous Arrhenius equation of chemical reaction as a function of temperature, the theory of ionic dissociation and his definition of an acid.

Perhaps somewhat less known is his early recognition and groundbreaking studies of the greenhouse effect published in 1896, subsequently a topic of global interest and concern amongst scientists, lawmakers and the general public.

Born 1859 at Vik Castle near Uppsala, Sweden as the son of a land surveyor, the young Arrhenius took an early liking to numbers and mathematics. At 17 he graduated first in class in the local cathedral school, then moving on to study chemistry at the University of Uppsala where he earned his doctorate through his work linking electrical conductivity of salt solutions to the ionic nature of salts. His work further developed into the definition of acids bearing his name and proved that they are substances that in solution produce hydrogen ions.

Arrhenius maintained close working relationships with science luminaries in Europe and was offered a position with Professor Clausius at the University of Riga but declined, preferring to stay in Sweden taking an appointment at Uppsala for a while, tending to a family matters. Subsequently lecturer at Stockholm University, professor of physics and then rector in 1896, Arrhenius received many awards, including the Nobel Prize of Chemistry (1903) and the Willard Gibbs Award.

Professor Arrhenius also took an interest in many other areas of science to which physical chemistry could be applied, including astronomy, astrophysics, geology and the life sciences. In 1904 he delivered a course of lectures at The University of California to illustrate the application of physical chemistry to the study of toxins and antitoxins. This course was later published in 1907 under the title Immunochemistry.

Vik Castle, where Svante Arrhenius grew up, dates from the 14th century and is one of central Sweden's best preserved middle age castle, nowadays doubling as community college and conference center and visitor tour destination. Strategically situated and well fortified, Vik was in its heyday a strongly enforced bastion against intruders. For instance, even future king Gustav Vasa is said to have held it under siege for over a year until eventually conquering it. Within ca. 50 km north west of Stockholm, it is within an easy day trip of the Swedish capital.

Address to Vik Castle:



Viks mur 29
755 91 Balingsta, Uppsala Län
Sweden
+46 18 611 66 60
wiks.slott@lul.se

Sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Svante_Arrhenius
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vik_Castle
- "Viks slott" by User Kemitsv on sv.wikipedia. Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Commons - https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Viks_slott.jpg#/media/File:Viks_slott.jpg



Maritime Knots for Everyday Use



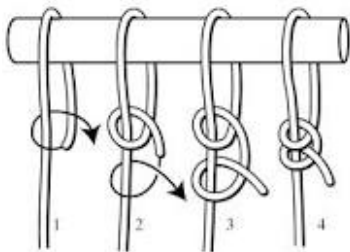
In the wake of the Swedish Club's recent sailing event on Clear Lake, it might be of interest to take a look at some common seamen's knots and their usefulness even beyond boating.

Clearly the many types of knots developed by mariners over the ages are too numerous to cite here. Therefore we limit ourselves to just a few deemed essential to basic boating activities and some that can also find practical use in many on-shore and household applications. Knots included are the bowline, variations of half hitch or clove knots, the reef knot and the figure eight which are considered to be the four most basic knots in sailing. These hitches will enable the user to securely tie a boat to a dock, fasten an anchor line, connect two or more ropes to increase overall length,

and stop the end of a line from inadvertently slipping through a cleat or other fastening point. Any of them can also find application elsewhere in organizing storage spaces, garages, gardening, and in other household applications.

A bowline knot is shown on the right. It is tied by first forming an eye over the standing line of rope, leading from above in the picture on the left, then bringing the end of the rope through the eye from underneath, and around the standing line and back into the eye.

The knot is tightened by applying pressure between the end of the rope and the standing line. The resulting loop may be tied to a ring or other fixture, for instance securing an anchor to a boat. The bowline can also be used to connect two or more lines end-on-end. This knot can be easily undone when tension is released.



Pictured next are examples of half hitches that can be tied around a pole, to a ring, pollard or even another rope. It is an easy and versatile knot that can be tied either directly onto an object, or to itself forming one or more loops around the object. Also pictured is the reef knot, often used to tie two lines together while reefing i.e. reducing sail area for heavy weather. Finally, the figure eight pictured below is one of the strongest knots, sometimes used in climbing and in securing line ends from sliding through points of fixation.



The reader may want to practice tying and using these knots and discover new potential situations where they can be applied. Mastering these four knots goes a long way to becoming comfortable in boats of any kind.



Sources:

- www.animatedknots.com
- www.images.search.yahoo.com
- www/en.wikipedia.org

Smörgåsbord Origins and Meaning

As the Houston heat starts to wane and we move closer to one of the highlights of the Swedish Club's calendar of events, our annual Smörgåsbord, here's a quick look at the origins of this delicious tradition courtesy of en.wikipedia.org.

A traditional [Swedish](#) smörgåsbord consists of both hot and cold dishes. Bread, butter, and cheese are always part of the smörgåsbord. It is customary to begin with the cold fish dishes, which are generally various forms of [herring](#), [salmon](#), and [eel](#). After eating the first portion, people usually continue with the second course (other cold dishes), and round off with hot dishes. [Dessert](#) may or may not be included in a smörgåsbord.



The Swedish word smörgåsbord consists of the words smörgås ([open-faced sandwich](#)) and bord (table). Smörgås in turn consists of the words smör (butter, cognate with English smear) and gås. Gås literally means goose, but later referred to the small pieces of [butter](#) that formed

and floated to the surface of cream while it was churned.^[3] These pieces reminded the old Swedish peasants of fat geese swimming to the surface.¹ The small butter pieces were just the right size to be placed and flattened out on bread, so smörgås came to mean buttered bread. In Sweden, the term "breda smörgåsar" (to butter open-faced sandwiches) has been used since at least the 16th century.



In [English](#) and also in Scandinavian languages, the word smörgåsbord refers loosely to any [buffet](#) with a variety of dishes. **The word can also refer to a selection of a variety of things, such as a smorgasbord of university courses, books in a bookstore, ideas, etc.**

Sources: en.wikipedia.org

The Swedish Club is hosting it's annual Smörgåsbord on Friday, Nov 6th 2015, 7:30 PM (cash bar opens 6:30 PM) at the Brae-Burn Country Club, [8101 Bissonnet St](#), Houston. Cost is : \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers, \$15 youth 12 and under, and a cash bar will be available. **Limited seating Reservations are required.**

Please RSVP by Tuesday Oct. 27 to submit your reservation online or you may mail a check payable to: The Swedish Club of Houston to:

The Swedish Club of Houston - Smörgåsbord

c/o Erich Wolz

4526 Waynesboro Dr

Houston, TX 77035

For more information, you may contact John Stavinoha

Friends of Lucia



As you probably know, Continental Airlines is no more (and, as a result, the Swedish Club of Houston has lost its sponsor of Lucia's airfare from Houston to Sweden). Thus, it becomes incumbent upon the members of the Club to step up and donate to support the long-standing tradition of the Club of Houston sending its Lucia to Sweden. A number of sponsorship levels are available.

The Swedish Club of Houston has been represented by its Lucia at the Texas Day celebration in Barkeryd, Sweden every year since 1988; the Club was represented this August by our 2014 Lucia, Sarah Archer. The Lucia program has provided a wonderful way for the members involved to travel and learn about our Swedish ancestry and our Texas connection with Barkeryd; a complete list of the Swedish Club of Houston's Lucias is at <http://swedishclub.org/lucia>.

Why is Barkeryd (a small parish near Nässjö in Småland) important to Texans? This small parish had half of the population emigrate to Texas between 1836 and 1927! The conditions were bad and the opportunity of settling in America was given to the people of Barkeryd. Around 1867 many young people left Barkeryd; S.M. Swenson and Svante Palm paid for their passage to come to work for them in Texas, where workers were needed to help on the farms. The immigrants worked off their passage in about 2 years. After the debt was paid off they were free to live and work for themselves. There are many Swedish communities around Central Texas which were settled by the Barkeryd immigrants. In their honor, the people of Barkeryd Sweden were proclaimed honorary citizens of Texas on May 27, 1975 by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Friends of Lucia Donations

If you would like to become a member of the Friends of Lucia and help support this long-standing tradition of the Club, you can either mail a check along with this form, or donate online via the link at <http://swedishclub.org>.



☐ Yes, please list my name as a Friend of Lucia

☐ No, I wish to remain anonymous

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Sponsorship Level:

\$500 – Speaker of the Riksdag

\$300 – Prime Minister

\$150 – Deputy Prime Minister

\$75 – Cabinet Minister

\$50 – Governor

\$30 – County Councilor

\$15 – Municipal Commissioner

Make check payable to: The Swedish Club of Houston

Mail to: Swedish Club of Houston, c/o Erich Wolz,
4526 Waynesboro Dr, Houston, TX 77035

An Introduction to Floorball

Have you heard of Floorball? Not many here have heard of this up and coming sport but many nations have taken to the game which was developed in Sweden in the 1970's. Since then, the sport has organized with the IFF (International Floorball Federation) created in 1986 and boasts over 300,000 recognized floorball players world-wide with the slogan, One World - One Ball. The Swedish Floorball Federation was founded in 1981 and has been a member of the IFF since its inception. Svenska Innebandyförbundet has over 120,000 players, men and women in a total of 971 football clubs and Sweden has routinely placed at the top in IFF organized events including the Men's World Floorball Championships in which they won 1st place in 2014.



Floorball is an indoor sport similar to hockey that is played with advanced lightweight sticks and a light plastic ball with holes reminiscent of a wiffle ball and can be played practically anywhere. There are six players to a side, one of which is a goalkeeper but who can be switched out for a field player for periods of time. The game is played in 3 periods, each 20 minutes long and unlike ice hockey, no checking allowed! In fact, no body contact or stick on stick contact is permitted and Floorball goaltenders do not use sticks but play on their knees, blocking shots with their hands and body.

In Houston, the [Houston Floorball Club](http://www.houstonfloorball.com) has an Adult League and Youth Programs including the School of Floorball, whose new Winter League begins January 10th. For more information please visit www.houstonfloorball.com

International information can be found at www.floorball.org including links to their Mobile Events App. As the tweet they posted to their website says: "If you do not follow #floorball now, it's ok... You will later on!" @ulfjens

Sources:

en.wikipedia.org
www.floorball.org
www.floorballpro.com





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The Swedish Club News is published 6 times a year by the Swedish Club of Houston.

Articles, photos, etc., are welcome. We would especially like personal news of our members, explanation of family traditions and Swedish culture, news of Swedes and of Sweden, and your favorite Swedish shops, products or resources.

Please send your news to newsletter@swedishclub.org or by post to the return address below.

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